

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 040587
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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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TAGS: PFOR, SMUN, UR, US

SUBJECT: GUSEV'S COMMENTS ON SAKHAROV PUBLISHED IN NY TIMES

NY TIMES FEB 23 RUNS ARTICLE ON OP-ED PAGE BY SERGEI I.
GUSEV, USSR DEPUTY PROSECUTOR GENERAL, GIVING SOVIET VERSION
OF WARNING TO SAKHAROV ABOUT LATTER'S "SLANDEROUS FABRICA-
TION" RE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN MOSCOW
SUBWAY EXPLOSION. INTER ALIA GUSEV MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS:

--SAKHAROV HAS BEEN WARNED BEFORE; IN AUGUST 1973 HE WAS
TOLD ABOUT "UNLAWFULNESS" OF HIS ACTIVITIES AIMED AT
"DISCREDITING THE SOVIET POLITICAL SYSTEM, THE PEACE
FOREIGN POLICY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE SOVIET
STATE, SOVIET-US RAPPROCHEMENT AND DETENTE."

--THESE "CONVERSATIONS" DEALT WITH SAKHAROV'S ACTIONS
"CONTRADICTING OR DIRECTLY VIOLATING SOVIET LEGISLATION"
NOT WITH HIS CONVICTIONS.
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PAGE 02 STATE 040587

--IF SAKHAROV WERE A US CITIZEN, HE MIGHT FIND HIMSELF IN

JAIL. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES SOVIETS ARE ACTING HUMANELY
BY "APPLYING ONLY MEASURES OF A MORAL AND PREVENTIVE NATURE
TO SAKHAROV AND SOME OTHER PERSONS". THIS, HOWEVER, IS
NOT DUE TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE.

--SAKHAROV TRIES TO PICTURE HIMSELF AS "EXCEPTIONAL"
AND NOT SUBJECT TO SOVIET LAWS. HE AND HIS WESTERN
DEFENDERS ARE MISTAKEN IF THEY BELIEVE SOVIET UNION WILL
RENOUNCE PRINCIPLE OF "EQUALITY OF ALL CITIZENS BEFORE
THE LAW".
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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